

NSC BRIEFING

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29 April 1954

THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE OF
SOUTH ASIAN PRIME MINISTERS

- I. Background - Five South Asian prime ministers--from Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Burma, and Indonesia--opened three-day conference in Colombo on 28 April. No fixed agenda. Conference sponsored by Prime Minister Kotelawala of Ceylon.
- II. Indochina will probably be dominant issue.
 - A. Nehru expected to raise his plan for Indochina peace--major points are:
 1. Immediate cease-fire.
 2. Immediate end French sovereignty.
 3. Direct negotiations between France Associated States, and Viet Minh.
 4. Non-intervention agreement among US, UK, Communist China and USSR.
 - B. Possibility Nehru may also suggest Southeast Asian states police Indochina truce.

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C. Ceylon has promised to oppose Nehru if he takes anti-Western tack.

1. Specifically, Ceylon will not endorse proposals on Indochina which oppose Dulles-Eden agreement.

(INFOR ONLY)

2. Ceylonese have given US repeated assurances they want conference to take "positive" anti-Communist stand.

D. Pakistan likely to support Ceylon.

E. Burmese and Indonesian positions not known--probably on fence, but generally sympathetic to Indian viewpoint.

III. Other Possible Topics.

A. Indonesia's call for more inclusive Asian-African conference and discussion of its claims to Dutch New Guinea.

B. Pakistan willing to discuss Kashmir if Nehru agrees.

C. Burma reported interested in discussion of economic problems.

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IV. Results

- A. Agreement on detailed program for action unlikely.
- B. But broadly worded resolution hitting "colonialism" and with overtones of Southeast Asian "peace area" difficult for even Ceylon and Pakistan to resist.

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